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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- During the second half of June 1953, there were a number of anti-Government demonstrations in Plovdiv. These were staged by workers unemployed because of the suspension of work at a number of plants as a consequence of the lack of raw materials. At the Vasil Kolarov plant, one of the directors was assaulted on 23 June; his car was overturned and destroyed. The director himself was so badly beaten that he is now in a critical condition; he was saved from death by the arrival of the Militia who had been called in because of the ineffectiveness of the factory police.
- Simultaneous outbreaks occurred all over Plovdiv okoliya in June 1953. The Militia forces in Plovdiv were quite incapable of dealing with the situation. Heavy reinforcements arrived in late June, and, although a minister had come down from Sofia a few days previously to arrange for the distribution of extra food to the unemployed and to tell them that the local leaders would be punished for their inefficiency, the Militia reinforcements made many arrests and deportations among the unemployed themselves.
- During the last week in June 1953, heavy damage was done in the copper mines of Eliseyna. The administration buildings were burned down, much of the machinery was sabotaged, and the mine is now closed entirely. This trouble started when workers were refused their repeated requests for larger bread rations and overtime pay.
- On 11 June 1953, a soap factory at Plaven was burned down and totally destroyed by rioting workers who had not been paid their salaries in full or given the extra rations which they had been promised.
- In mid-June 1953, the Chilov Chemical Plant at Kostinbrod was damaged by fire and a heavy explosion. Workers inside the plant murdered two members of the factory police while large crowds of townspeople demonstrated outside. The explosion killed several of the workers and demonstrators.

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6. During the second week in June 1953, 1,500 workers at the Pavlovo (sic) tobacco factory were dismissed without pay because the factory lacked raw materials and had to close down. Small demonstrations took place, but were soon brought under control.
7. In late June 1953, the large explosives plant at Kazanlık was closed down for a few days as a result of food riots, and Militia reinforcements were brought into the area. The aircraft factory at Kazanlık was sabotaged at the same time.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: Anton Yugov, deputy prime minister, was reported to have attempted to quiet rioters at the tobacco factories in Plovdiv at this time.

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